

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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DRAFTED BY AF/RA:JWWALKER:CHG

APPROVED BY AF: AMB. EASUM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080856

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU

SUBJECT: EASUM CONVERSATION WITH SUDANESE FOREIGN MINISTER
KHALID AT UN SPECIAL SESSION

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
KHALID FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN NEW YORK APRIL 19. KHALID
BEGAN BY URGING EASUM ENCOURAGE SECRETARY KISSINGER TO
VISIT KHARTOUM THE NEXT TIME THE SECRETARY WAS IN CAIRO.
EASUM TOLD KHALID HE DOUBTED SUCH A VISIT WOULD BE POSSIBLE
DURING CURRENT MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, BUT PROMISED TO
TRANSMIT THE INVITATION. KHALID SAID QUOTE WE WOULD LIKE
TO HEAR FROM HIM ON THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS, AND WE'D
LIKE TO TELL HIM ABOUT AFRICA, INCLUDING THE ETHIOPIAN AND
KENYAN PROBLEMS. UNQUOTE

2. EASUM ASKED FOR KHALID'S VIEWS ON THE ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM.
KHALID REPLIED THAT QUOTE WHAT HAS HAPPENED OUGHT TO HAVE
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HAPPENED UNQUOTE AND THAT IT IS BETTER TO HAVE ETHIOPIAN

SOCIAL ADJUSTMENTS WHILE THE EMPEROR IS STILL ON THE SCENE AS A CONTROLLING AGENT RATHER THAN LATER WHEN EVENTS COULD REALLY GET OUT OF HAND. KHALID SAID THE PROBLEM NOW IS THAT ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT IS DOING AS GOOD A JOB AS IT CAN, THE COUNTRY IS OUT OF MONEY. KHALID SAID ETHIOPIA WILL NEED AN ADDITIONAL 100 MILLION ETHIOPIAN DOLLARS THIS YEAR TO TAKE CARE OF THE SALARY INCREASES

RECENTLY GRANTED. KHALID SAID THAT WITHOUT THIS MONEY THE COUNTRY COULD JOIN ADEN AND SOMALIA IN FALLING TO COMMUNIST DOMINATION (SIC) AND THIS IS OF DEEP CONCERN TO SUDAN. KHALID SAID SUDAN HAS BEEN TRYING TO GET THE SHAH OF IRAN AND SAUDIA ARABIA INVOLVED IN AN EFFORT TO QUOTE KEEP UNDESIRABLES OUT OF THE AREA UNQUOTE. KHALID SAID FOOD IS ALSO AN URGENT PROBLEM FOR ETHIOPIA. KHALID MENTIONED THE IMF AS ANOTHER POSSIBLE SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIA.

3. EASUM ASKED WHETHER KHALID BELIEVED ETHIOPIA HAS NEED OF ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND WHETHER FEARS OF SOMALIA ARE REAL. KHALID SAID THERE IS BASIS FOR ETHIOPIAN FEARS BUT IN HIS OPINION THE ETHIOPIAN ARMY IS LARGE ENOUGH AND WELL ENOUGH EQUIPPED TO DETER SOMALIA. HE REFERRED TO AFRICAN EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE SOMALIA/ETHIOPIA BORDER DISPUTE AND SAID THESE HAD LEAD TO NOTHING BECAUSE THE ETHIOPIANS DO NOT WANT THE PROBLEM TO BE AFRICANIZED. EVEN SO KHALID SAID THE COMMISSION WAS USEFUL BY ITS EXISTENCE. KHALID LOOKED FOR GENERAL ABEBE (CURRENT ETHIOPIAN DEFENSE MINISTER) TO TAKE OVER AS PRIME MINISTER BEFORE VERY LONG. HE SAID THERE ARE TOO MANY FACTORS WORKING AGAINST ENDALKACHEW: NOBILITY, RICHES, AND CONNECTIONS WITH THE FORMER REGIME INTER ALIA.

4. KHALID THEN TURNED TO THE OUTLOOK FOR KENYA. HE SEES KENYA'S FUTURE MUCH LESS BRIGHT THAN ETHIOPIA'S, A NATION WHICH HAS LONG ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONS AND TRADITIONS. HE SAID THE BRITISH HAD NEVER DEVELOPED THE NECESSARY INSTITUTIONS IN KENYA AND THAT WHEN KENYATTA DIES THE COUNTRY WILL PROBABLY REVERT TO TRIBALISM.

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5. EASUM THEN BROUGHT UP THE COMPLAINT KHALID HAD RAISED AT A UN RECEPTION THE NIGHT BEFORE CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBTAINING US EARTH-MOVING EQUIPMENT FOR THE RAHAD IRRIGATION PROJECT. WHEN EASUM EXPLAINED THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE EQUIPMENT SUPPLY EFFORT, KHALID ADMITTED HIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN INACCURATE. HE WAS NONETHELESS DISTURBED THAT THE PROJECT WAS SIX MONTHS BEHIND, STATING THAT WHEN AN AGRICULTURAL PROJECT PASSES THE TIME FOR PLANTING

IT HAS TO WAIT ANOTHER YEAR. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IN THE
FUTURE THE US WOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE MORE RAPIDLY AND MORE
DECISIVELY.

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